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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Partisan Movements in Czechoslovakia

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1. Detva is a village 15 km east of Zvolen. There is a Czechoslovak rifle battalion stationed at the place, which has been engaged in operations against partisans in the Ostrovski-Vepor Mountains since May 1953. The battalion has suffered severe losses in the process.
2. The tactics of the partisans consist of surprise attacks on small garrisons, depots, and depots. Rarely are there more than 50 men in the partisan groups, and the largest number participating was 80 or 90. The partisans are very careful, not in the least interested in putting on a show, and attacking only when they are absolutely certain of the result.
3. The partisans are armed with modern Soviet and Czech weapons, including a few light automatic weapons.
4. After 1 Aug 53 the attacks were concentrated against the assembly points of the state crop-gathering organization and army depots. Some attacks were made against compulsory labor camps for the release of prisoners held there.
5. Prisoners taken from the partisans say that while most of the partisans are Slovaks, there are also numerous Poles and a few Ukrainians. Whenever possible the civil population supports these partisans with warm clothing and food, but the leading service given to the partisans is in warning and information about the movements of regular troops. The state security organizations are persuaded that some leading Slovak officials are helping the partisans, but no proof of such cooperation has been secured. Thus far the partisans have always succeeded in melting away into the woods without heavy losses when attacked by troops, which would indicate an efficient warning service.

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6. Near Zilina in western Slovakia is a military encampment, where technical troops and infantry have been in training since May 1953.
7. On 15 Jun. 53 there was an alarm, at this camp which lasted for two days. The rifle companies were loaded into trucks and sent to the Vah valley. There the soldiers were able to observe that an important bridge had been blown up, and they were informed that this was the work of partisans. The units were supposed to follow up these partisans, but after three days of movement without results, they were returned to the camp.
8. Units of the SNB and militia also took part in the pursuit of the partisans. The military units closed off the hilly country and blockaded all the villages, while the SNB men conducted searches. All persons had to establish their location and activity by means of witnesses or papers. Unreliable peasants were given long examinations. The political police conducted an especial search for foreigners, but no great results were achieved.
9. In the Zilina camp the political officers strictly prohibited speaking or writing about these events. Nothing of them was allowed to reach the papers.

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